Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Currently amended): A method of making an aluminum reduction cell component having a stabilized surface that is wettable by molten aluminum, which comprises mixing together a carbonaceous material, TiB_2 and up to 25% by weight of an additive consisting of a combination of two intimately mixed compounds and baking the mixture into a cell component having a baked surface provided with pores, wherein said TiB_2 is used in an amount sufficient to make the baked surface wettable by molten aluminium, and wherein at least a first of the two compounds has a higher melting temperature than the baking temperature, whereby when the cell component is contacted with molten aluminum, the aluminium wets the baked surface, penetrates the pores therein, and reacts with the additive to form a dense phase ~~at the surface of the cell component, the dense phase~~ having low solubility in aluminium that seals the pores.

2.(Original): A method according to claim 1 wherein up to 10% by weight of the additive is mixed with the carbonaceous material and TiB_2.

3.(Original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the combination of two intimately mixed compounds is selected from a group of combinations consisting of: TiO_2 and B_2O_3, TiC and B_2O_3, Al_2O_3 and B_2O_3, TiO_2 and $Na_2B_4O_7$, TiO_2 and BN, TiO_2 and B_4C, BN and B_2O_3 and Al-C-Ti master alloy and B_2O_3.

4.(Original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the combination of two intimately mixed compounds comprises TiO_2 and B_2O_3.

5.(Original): A method according to claim 4 wherein the TiO_2 and B_2O_3 are mixed in a ratio of 40-50% by weight TiO_2 and 50-60% by weight B_2O_3.

6. (Original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the intimately mixed compounds comprise particles less than 200 μm in size.

7. (Original): A method according to claim 6 wherein the particles are less than 30 μm in size.

8. (Original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the carbonaceous material and TiB_2 are mixed in the ratio of 50% by weight of carbonaceous material and 40 to 49% of TiB_2.

Claims 9 – 20 (Cancelled).

21.(New) A method according to claim 1, wherein 40% by weight or more of said TiB_2 is mixed with the carbonaceous material.